Page 43, line 9, replace "NO:5" with --NO:1--;

last line, replace "NO:5" with --NO:1--.

Page 46, line 4, delete "in SEQ ID NOs:1 and 2" and insert therefor --corresponding to amino acid residues 26-43 and 79-103 of SEQ ID NO:2--.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claim 1 without prejudice.

Please rewrite claims 23, 36 and 37 in amended form as follows:

23 (Amended). A monoclonal antibody [which is] which binds to [to the] ~~for~~ a protein [of claim 1] obtainable from mouse liver, said protein having a molecular weight of 19 + 5 kDa as determined by gel filtration or non-reducing SDS-PAGE and a pI of 4.8 + 1.0 as determined by chromatofocusing, comprising the amino acid sequences set forth as residues 26-43 and 79-103 of SEQ ID NO:2, and being capable of inducing IFN-γ production by immunocompetent cells, ~~and wherein said monoclonal antibody enables the immunoaffinity purification of said protein to a purity of at least 95% with a yield of nearly 100%~~.

36 (Amended). An IFN-γ production inducing agent which contains an effective [amount] ingredient capable of inducing IFN-γ production by immunocompetent cells, said effective ingredient consisting of [the] a protein obtainable from mouse liver, said protein having a molecular weight of 19 + 5 kDa

B13 CONCL'D.

as determined by gel filtration or non-reducing SDS-PAGE and a pI of 4.8 + 1.0 as determined by chromatofocusing, comprising the amino acid sequences set forth as residues 26-43 and 79-103 of SEQ ID NO:2, and being capable of inducing IFN-γ production by immunocompetent cells [of claim 1 as an effective ingredient].

37 (Amended). A therapeutic agent comprising a pharmaceutically-acceptable carrier and an effective [amount] ingredient capable of inducing IFN-γ production by immunocompetent cells, said effective ingredient consisting of the protein obtainable from mouse liver, said protein having a molecular weight of 19 + 5 kDa as determined by gel filtration or non-reducing SDS-PAGE and a pI of 4.8 + 1.0 as determined by chromatofocusing, comprising the amino acid sequences set forth as residues 26-43 and 79-103 of SEQ ID NO:2, and being capable of inducing IFN-γ production by immunocompetent cells [of claim 1 as an effective ingredient].

Please add new claims 38-44 as follows:

B14 CONT'D.

--38. A purified protein which is a variant of a protein obtained from mouse liver capable of inducing IFN-γ production by immunocompetent cells and having an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 where residue 70 is methionine or threonine, wherein said variant has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 with one or more amino acid residues in SEQ ID NO:2 replaced with different amino acids or one or more amino acid

B14 CONT'D.

residues deleted or added to the N-terminus of SEQ ID NO:2 while retaining the biological property of being capable of inducing IFN-γ production by immunocompetent cells.

--39. The purified protein according to claim 38, wherein said variant has one amino acid residue in SEQ ID NO:2 replaced with another amino acid.

--40. The purified protein according to claim 38, wherein said variant has one or more amino acid residues deleted or added to the N-terminus of SEQ ID NO:2.

--41. A monoclonal antibody specific for the protein of claim 38, wherein said monoclonal antibody is produced by a hybridoma resulting from the fusion of an infinitely proliferating cell and an antibody-producing cell isolated from a mammal immunized with the protein of claim 38.

--42. A method for detecting a protein by immunoreaction, comprising the steps of:

contacting the monoclonal antibody of claim 41 with a test sample to effect immunoreaction in the presence of a protein in the test sample to which the monoclonal antibody ~~is specific~~ binds, wherein the protein has a molecular weight of 19±5 kDa as determined by gel filtration or non-reducing SDS-PAGE and a pI of 4.8±1.0 as determined by chromatofocusing, comprises the amino acid sequences set forth as residues 26-43 and 79-103 of SEQ ID NO:2, and is capable of inducing IFN-γ production by immunocompetent cells; and